13 Rec'd PCT TO 2 6 OCT 2001 09/980262

-JC03 Rec'd PCT/PTO

Attorney Docket No.01638/RPM

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): D. NAS et al

Serial No.

: Based on

PCT/EP00/03096

Filed

: Herewith

For

: COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

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Express Mail Mailing Label No.: EV 044 466 136 US

Date of Deposit: October 26, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. / 20231

arbara Illani

Barbara Villani

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto. authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

SIR:

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1: Please insert the following as the first sentence:

-- This application is a U.S. National Phase Application under 35 USC 371 of International Application PCT/EP00/03096 (published in English) filed April 7, 2000.--

A marked-up copy of page 1 is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Michal, No. 35,614

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman, Langer & Chick, P.C. 767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor New York, New York 10017-2023 Tel. No. (212) 319-4900 Fax No. (212) 319-5101 RPM:bv